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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/570,595

03/06/2006

Valerio Abate

ABATE 2

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EXAMINER

FRENEL, VANEL

ART UNIT

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3687

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/570,595	Applicant(s) ABATE ET AL.	
	Examiner VANEL FRENEL	Art Unit 3687	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20080307</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the application filed on 3/06/06. Claims 9-17 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lutz et al. (6,169,978).

As per claim 9, Lutz discloses an automated multi-function terminal for use in a post office, a processor electrically coupled to each of: an input device operable by a user, a device for weighing items of postage comprising a working plane, supported by a frame, made of transparent material and a load cell able to weight the items placed on the working plane, a device for capturing image mounted in the device, one for each side of the working plane, a visual display (See Lutz, Col.3, lines 1-42; Col.5, lines 1-23), the processor being configured to: a) receive input from weighing device specifying the weighing of an object placed on the working plane (See Lutz, Col.1, lines 60-67 to Col.2, line 14; Col.3, lines 1-42; Col.5, lines 1-23); b) receive input from image capturing device of an object placed on the working plane (See Lutz, Col.3, lines 1-42; Col.5, lines 1-23); c) receive input from the input device specifying other necessary characteristic of

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the delivery (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 1-23); d) process the image information in order to recognize dimensions, writing characters and/or symbols from the electronic image captured previously (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 8-30; Col.6, lines 25-60); e) provide output to the visual display to show image, dimensions, writings and all recognized characteristic from the object placed thereon (See Lutz, Fig.6; Col.6, lines 25-60); and (f) operate the output device to supply storage of retrieved information for further operations (See Fig.4, Col.4, lines 61-67 to Col.5, line8).

As per claim 10, Lutz discloses an automated point-of-sale terminal including a light manipulation device such as a mirror or a lens in order to reduce multi- function terminal dimensions (See Lutz, Col.2, lines 3-9).

As per claim 11, Lutz discloses an automated multi-function terminal wherein the said light manipulation device is a special set of lenses (See Lutz, Col.2, lines 3-9).

As per claim 12, Lutz discloses an automated multi-function desk further comprising an output device adapted to print and dispense a payment receipt (See Lutz, Col.1, lines 17-27; Col.9, lines 44-48).

As per claim 13, Lutz discloses an automated multi-function desk wherein the image is transferred via mirror or lenses to an image capturing device (See Lutz, Col.2, lines 3-9).

As per claim 14, Lutz discloses an automated multi-function desk wherein the processor, the input device, the weighing unit, the image capturing, the payment acceptance device, and the output device are integral in a single unit (See Lutz, Col.9, lines 44-48).

As per claim 15, Lutz discloses an automated multi-function desk wherein the integral unit is movable and independent from the desk (See Lutz, Col.4, lines 36-60).

As per claim 16, Lutz discloses an automated multi-function desk wherein the processor process the image information in specific identification of stamp area and analyses stamp image or value marks and correlates with stamp database through apparent colours or sub-area colours in order to retrieve stamp value and validity (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 8-30).

As per claim 17, Lutz discloses a method of facilitate postal services in a post office reducing the intervention of the employee, comprising providing an automated multi-function desk device operable by a worker to: placing an item of postage on a transparent plane (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 8-30); specify the characteristics of a postal delivery (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 1-23); weight the item of postage located on the plane that acts as a switch allowing image capturing of postage on the same plane and without moving the item (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 8-30); process the image and extract

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information (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 8-30); perform calculation and point out errors(See Lutz, Col.5, lines 8-30); accept payment of a postal charge in respect of the postal delivery (See Lutz, Col.5, lines 1-23); and dispense a printed indication that the postage charge has been paid (See Lutz, Col.1, lines 17-27; Col.9, lines 44-48).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited but the applied prior art teaches arrangement for communication between stations of a mail processing machine (6,178,410).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VANEL FRENEL whose telephone number is (571)272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Gart can be reached on 571-272-3955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Vanel Frenel/
Examiner, Art Unit 3687
July 31, 2009